

Message Text

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43

ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 COA-02 COME-00 INT-08 H-02 IO-12

EB-11 CG-00 SCI-06 CEQ-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 EPA-04 SS-15 NSC-10 DODE-00 OIC-04 RSR-01 /117 W
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R 121140 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8722

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L 3764

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, PBOR, PFOR, XN, US

SUBJECT: NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES

REFERENCE: A) STATE 85811; B) STATE 86290; C) STATE 86329

1. EMBOFF MAY PRESENTED REF A AIDE MEMOIRE TO ITALIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICE DIRECTOR FOR INDUSTRIAL COUNTRY ECONOMIC RELATIONS. ORALLY WE EXPRESSED US CONCERN WITH INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES (ICNAF) NOTING BOTH POSSIBLE EFFECT ON LAW OF SEA CONFERENCE AND SERIOUS IMPACT ON NEW ENGLAND FISHERIES INDUSTRY. SEPARATE APPROACH BEING MADE BY EMBASSY TO DR. ALFONSO CARUSI, DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS IN DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF FISHERIES AT MINISTRY OF MERCHANT MARINE.

2. APPROACH BASED ON REF B MADE MAY 11 TO RESPONSIBLE LAW OF THE SEA OFFICIAL IN FONOFF POLITICAL DIRECTORATE. OFFICIAL ACKNOWLEDGED GRAVITY OF PROBLEM FACING US AT JUNE ICNAF CONFERENCE BUT WONDERED WHY DECISION RE UNILATERAL ACTION COULD NOT BE DELAYED UNTIL LOS CONFERENCE ITSELF. IN RESPONSE, WE POINTED OUT THAT CONGRESSIONAL AND OTHER PRESSURES MADE ACTION IMPERATIVE NOW IN ABSENCE OF SATISFACTORY OUTCOME AT ICNAF MEETING. EXPRESSING UNDERSTANDING FOR US DILEMA WHICH HE INDICATED MUST BE UNUSUALLY PRESSING IN VIEW OF STRONG AND LONG- STANDING US SUPPORT FOR SUCCESSFUL LOS
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CONFERENCE, OFFICIAL SAID HE WOULD CONTACT OTHER ITALIAN AGENCIES CONCERNED WITH ICNAF MEETING AND LOS QUESTIONS IN ORDER TO PREPARE COORDINATED ITALIAN POSITION FOR JUNE MEETING.

3. DCM MADE PRESENTATION MAY 12 TO FOREIGN MINISTRY SECRETARY GENERAL GAJA PARTICULARLY STRESSING THREAT TO ECONOMIC VITALITY OF POLITICALLY IMPORTANT NEW ENGLAND FISHERIES INDUSTRY AND POTENTIAL EFFECT ON LAW OF SEA CONFERENCE. COPY OF TALKING POINTS BASED ON REF C LEFT WITH SECRETARY GENERAL. GAJA SAID HE HAD CAREFULLY READ US AIDE MEMOIRE WHICH MFA HAD CONVEYED URGENTLY TO MINISTRY OF MERCHANT MARINE FOR CONSIDERATION. WHILE ITALY HAD LITTLE, IF ANY, DIRECT FISHING INTEREST IN WESTERN PART OF ICNAF CONVENTION AREA, GAJA RECOGNIZED THAT PRESENT ICNAF SITUATION RAISED IMPORTANT ISSUES OF PRINCIPLE FOR LAW OF SEA AND ALSO COULD HAVE RELEVANCE FOR OTHER AREAS WHERE ITALY HAD MORE IMMEDIATE NATIONAL FISHING INTERESTS. GAJA CONCLUDED THAT GOI WOULD GIVE US PROPOSALS, WHEN RECEIVED, CAREFUL CONSIDERATION IN DEVELOPING ITALIAN POSITION FOR JUNE 5-15 COPENHAGEN ICNAF MEETING.

4. AS NOTED ABOVE, EMBASSY WILL FOLLOW UP, PARTICULARLY WITH MINISTRY OF MERCHANT MARINE. VOLPE

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